

Message Text

SECRET

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62
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON
APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

EUR:RDVINE (SUBSTANCE)

C:HSONNENFELDT

S/S:CABORG

----- 001007

R 230158Z DEC 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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STADIS//////////
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GW, US

SUBJECT: OFFSET

REF: BONN 20597

FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND FROM HARTMAN

1. PLEASE PASS HERMES THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SONNENFELDT:
 - A. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE RECORD OF VINE'S TALKS WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN BONN LAST WEEK AND FIND THEM A USEFUL BASIS FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THE OFFSET PROBLEM.
 - B. WHILE THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO OVERT PRESSURES FROM CONGRESS ON OFFSET OR TROOP REDUCTION ISSUES, IT IS PRECISELY DURING THIS PERIOD OF QUIET THAT THE US AND FRG SHOULD CARRY OUT THEIR EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS.
 - C. THE FACT IS THAT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN US TROOPS AND THE COSTS RESULTING FROM THEIR LOCATION OVERSEAS CON-

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TINUES TO EXIST, ALBEIT BENEATH THE SURFACE AT THE PRESENT

TIME, AND CONSTITUTES A POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE PRESSURE ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. IT IS THEREBY A POLITICAL ISSUE THAT MUST BE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF.

D. WE THEREFORE URGE THAT THE SOUNDINGS BEGUN IN BONN CONTINUE AT AN EARLY DATE, WITH THE FOCUS ON THE FACILITATION OF TROOP STATIONING IN THE FRG.

2. FYI ONLY. WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN CREATING DIFFICULTIES WITH HERMES OR HIS EVALUATION OF WHAT HE THINKS SONNENFELDT WAS TELLING HIM. WE SIMPLY WANT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT IN A LOW-KEY, MATTER-OF-FACT WAY SO AS TO BE ABLE TO KEEP TALKS ON A SUCCESSOR ARRANGEMENT TO OFFSET ON THE TRACKS.

3. WE ARE PREPARED TO DROP DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR NOW. HOWEVER SHOULD THIS CREATE IMPRESSION THAT TALKS HAVE FAILED, WE WILL BE FACED WITH TYPE OF PRESSURE WE ARE SEEKING TO AVOID. THEREFORE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DIALOGUE CONTINUE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, OFFSET PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE301316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DANDERSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750444-1240
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751218/aaaaappl.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, EXDIS
Reference: 76 BONN 20597
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFSET
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GE, US
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006